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# OT 502 Comprehensive Hebrew II

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## Comprehensive Hebrew II – OT 502

August 1999 – A Three Hour Course  
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Office Hours: Monday-Friday, 1:15-2:15 P.M.

### Semitic Mania

Prepare yourself for Hebrew mania once again. A language whose letters resemble unidentified foreign objects, where the book begins at the end and sentences are read from right to left, and where *dog* means fish, *he* means she, *me* means who, and *who* means he.

### Personal Welcome

I am Michael Matlock, your professor and colleague in the learning process. I have many interests and hobbies which I enjoy doing (e.g. riding my bicycle, playing golf, "relaxing" by watching sports), but I love to teach Hebrew and continue to learn other facets of the language that reveal insights into God's word. So, I am excited about our collaborative course this semester because I know that we will gain insights into this wonderful language through which God chose to reveal himself and his relationship to his creation.

Please share a brief profile of yourself (limited to 100 words) and give me a typed copy by the second day of class so that we can all get to know one another better. We will read several of your profiles at the beginning of each class. Let me encourage you to sign up for an email account in the Media Center of Asbury Seminary; this is one of the ways you can correspond with your colleagues and me during and after the course.

By the way, you may discover some things about me by accessing my bio on the Internet at the following web address ([www.asburyseminary.edu/exl/people/faculty/matlock.htm](http://www.asburyseminary.edu/exl/people/faculty/matlock.htm)).

### Course Description

This course is designed to build upon Concise Hebrew (OT 501) in order to give the student a complete mastery of elementary Hebrew grammar.

### Objectives

1. To properly pronounce/read Biblical Hebrew by reviewing phonology
2. To be able to determine the range of grammatical functions and choose the most appropriate one(s) by knowing the changes in word formation (morphology)
3. To learn to interpret the interrelations of BH words (syntax)
4. To gain facility translating and interpreting the Hebrew Bible (*Biblia Hebraica Stuttgartensia*) for the purposes of preaching and teaching in the Church
5. To gain further facility using a standard Hebrew lexicon such as Brown, Driver, and Briggs (BDB) and reference grammars such as Waltke/O'Connor (W-O'C), Gesenius/Kautzsch/Cowley (GKC), and Joüon/Muraoka (JM) in order to interpret the

## Hebrew Scriptures

6. To learn nouns, verbs, and particles used more than 100 times in the Hebrew Bible (app. 427 words and meanings)

### Required Texts

- 1. Bornemann, Robert. A Grammar of Biblical Hebrew. Lanham, MD: University Press of America, 1998.

This is the foundation text for this course. We will systematically proceed through Part Two, "Continuing Biblical Hebrew" which involves translating 1 Kings 17-19 and reviewing key points of grammar and syntax as we plod along. We may also review some lessons in Part One. A major advantage of this text is that it is written in a personal dialogical way.

2. Brown, Francis, S. R. Driver, and Charles A. Briggs. A Hebrew and English Lexicon of the Old Testament. Oxford: Oxford, 1907; reprint, Peabody, MA: Hendrickson, 1979.

Even though this dictionary or lexicon was published around the beginning of this century, it still provides the most wealth of information per the expense. You will probably agree its format needs revising. We will enhance our skills to use *BDB* throughout the course.

- 3. Elliger, K., and W. Rudolph. Biblia Hebraica Stuttgartensia. Stuttgart: Deutsche Bibelgesellschaft, 1967-77.

This is the Hebrew Bible reproduced from the oldest complete manuscript of the Old Testament, *Codex Leningradensis* (ca. 1008 A.D.), without significant alteration. We will read it throughout the course gaining appropriate knowledge.

- 4. Mitchel, Larry A. A Student's Vocabulary for Biblical Hebrew and Aramaic. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1984.

Mitchel's book is arranged by frequency. He lists the word and definition(s) of some 2000 Hebrew words and all 648 biblical Aramaic words. We will be memorizing all the Hebrew words used 100 times or more. He groups nouns, verbs, and particles all together.

- 5. Scott, William R. A Simplified Guide to BHS. Berkley, CA: BIBAL, 1987.

This is a basic introduction to many of the peculiarities of the Hebrew Bible. Scott provides an English key to the Latin text critical notes at the very bottom of the page which were added by scholars this century who edited BHS and to the Aramaic side marginal notes (a.k.a. "massorah") which were put there by Medieval Jewish rabbis who created the vowel and accent system of the Hebrew Bible. Scott also explains many other features of the Hebrew Bible that will help you to understand how it has been put together through hundreds of years.

- 6. Williams, Ronald J. Hebrew Syntax: An Outline. Toronto: University of Toronto, 1976.

This book is a brief introduction to Hebrew syntax (how words are put together). We will utilize this book throughout the course. Williams is too brief at many points, but the alternative books pertaining to syntax are of massive proportion or too expensive. Williams uses many terms for syntax that are now outdated; nevertheless, his text continues to be useful for beginning Hebrew students.

### Recommended Texts & Software

You do not need to buy these Hebrew tools; however each one has value for gaining further competence with the Hebrew language and thought-world.

1. Armstrong, Terry, Douglas Busby, and Cyril Carr. A Reader's Hebrew-English Lexicon of the Old Testament: Four Volumes in One. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1989.

This text is helpful to do rapid reading of Hebrew after you complete this semester of Hebrew. Of course, reading speeds will vary upon individual skill and knowledge of Hebrew.

2. BibleWorks 4.0 Hermenueitika, Big Fork, MT.

This software program will assist us in spotting grammatical forms of Hebrew words (also called parsing) which we could not otherwise understand and provide an abridged Hebrew dictionary (*Brown, Driver, and Briggs*) for quick reference. It is also a powerful tool for doing Hebrew word studies functioning as a concordance to find all usage of a word and providing a quick and easy way to see how the recurrence of a word functions in context.

**\*WARNING:** BibleWorks is a tool for ministry, but if you utilize it take some precautionary measures. Always try to push yourself to parse and translate as much Hebrew as possible before going to BibleWorks for parsing help.

3. Kohlenberger, John III. The Interlinear NIV Hebrew-English Old Testament. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1987. (One volume)

Kohlenberger's text is the best interlinear available (and one of only a few, in contrast to Greek interlinears) and can give you a sense of how the Hebrew is translated in the NIV translation.

**\*WARNING:** An interlinear is a tool for ministry, but if using it take some precautionary measures. Always try to push yourself to parse and translate as much Hebrew as possible before consulting the interlinear for translation assistance.

- 4. Joüon, Paul, S.J. A Grammar of Biblical Hebrew. Edited and translated by T. Muraoka. 2 Vols. Subsidia Biblica 14/I-II. Roma: Editrice Pontificio Istituto Biblico, 1993.

This is the most up-to-date and comprehensive reference grammar. It was written by the French biblical studies scholar, Joüon, in 1923 and subsequently revised and translated by the Japanese biblical studies scholar, Muraoka, in 1991. It is clearly written and it has a thorough section on syntax, a section often neglected in Hebrew grammars. It is full of

useful insights and information for anyone with a basic knowledge of Biblical Hebrew grammar. Also, his subject, Hebrew word, and scripture indices are invaluable.

- 5. Owens, John Joseph. Analytical Key to the Old Testament. 4 Vols. Grand Rapids Baker, 1989-1992.

This resource parses every Hebrew word in the Old Testament verse by verse, chapter by chapter, and book by book and gives the appropriate page where the word is found in the *Brown, Driver, and Briggs* lexicon. As mentioned above, the BibleWorks software program will also parse all Hebrew words, but Owens' work does so in a printed form.

**\*WARNING:** *Owens* is a tool for ministry, but take some precautionary measures if you are going to use it. Always try to push yourself to parse and translate as much Hebrew as possible before going to *Owens* for parsing help.

- 6. Waltke, Bruce, and Michael O'Connor. An Introduction to Biblical Hebrew Syntax. Winona Lake, IN: Eisenbrauns, 1990.

This wonderful text contains virtually all the "ins and outs" of Hebrew syntax. In comparison, Williams' text which you have purchased is like a "reader's digest" version of Waltke-O'Connor. If you read and understand 50 percent of this text, you will have at least an intermediate knowledge of Biblical Hebrew.

- indicates that the resource is on the reserve shelf in the library under "Matlock." Also, two beginning Hebrew grammars which have been used recently to learn Hebrew here at ATS are on the reserve shelf: Page H. Kelley, Biblical Hebrew: An Introductory Grammar, (Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1992) and C. L. Seow, A Grammar For Biblical Hebrew, Rev. Ed. (Nashville: Abingdon, 1995). I also put another reference grammar, Wilhelm Gesenius, Gesenius' Hebrew Grammar, (Oxford: Clarendon, 1910; reprint 1970) on the reserve shelf which has been the standard in Hebrew studies for almost a century.

## Evaluation

### Attendance Policy:

Note carefully, only one absence (= one day) is allowable in this intensive course without a penalty. If you are absent for more than one day for whatever reason (excuse or no excuse), please note carefully that your final grade will be penalized. For example, if you have two absences and your final grade would be a B+, then it will move down to a B. If you have three absences and your final grade would be a B+, then it will move down to a B-. Etc. Etc. If you have any questions, please see me the first day of class.

### Approximate Grade Scale:

A 93-100	B 83-86	C 73-76	D 63-66
A- 90-92	B- 80-82	C- 70-72	D- 60-62
B+ 87-89	C+ 77-79	D+ 67-69	F 0-59

Your grade is calculated on the following factors:

Class Participation	10%
Miscellaneous Assignments (primarily translations) & Readings	20%
Exam #1 – Celebration of B. L.	20%
Exam #2 – Celebration of B. L.	30%
Miscellaneous Quizzes (approx. ) – Celebration of S. L.	20%
<b>Total</b>	<b>100%</b>

1. Class Participation – 10% of course grade

A key factor of this part of your grade is your attitude and affectation towards the material in this course. It goes without saying, but bears repeating, that a large majority of your success in understanding Hebrew is achieved by a positive attitude and lots of motivation. You will be evaluated on your level of preparation for class each day.

2. Assignments & Readings - 20% of course grade

We will plod through Part Two of our main text, *Bornemann*, by systematically translating 1 Kings 17-19 and reviewing points of grammar and syntax. In addition, for some modules, I will create worksheets or other similar assignments designed for you to achieve the objectives of that module.

On some days, you will submit your responses/answers to the assignment to your peer teams in the class. Teams will vary each week, so you will rotate with peers and work with different people in the class. Collaborating with your colleagues should be and will be a significant part of your learning experience.

Full participation and engagement is essential in order to obtain the learning goals of this course, so please be prepared ready to discuss with your team members and instructor. You are encouraged to find study partners and work together on assignments outside of class. If you decide to study in this fashion, make sure you understand the objectives of that lesson first hand. In other words, make sure you know how to translate the Hebrew by the time of the exams.

At my discretion, I will grade the assignments in order to determine that work is being done or choose not to grade certain assignments.

NOTE: Late assignments will be accepted, but penalized 5% each calendar day and receive no comments.

Please stay current with your reading. Students will be asked to turn in a reading report at the end of the semester for all assigned reading.

3. Celebrations of Big Learning (2 Exams) – 50% of course grade

Around the mid-point of the term and at the end of the course, you will take a comprehensive exam of items studied up to those points in the semester. Both exams will primarily involve translating Hebrew. See above for the value of each exam.

4. Celebrations of Small Learning (Quizzes) - 20% of course grade

You will be quizzed on the first three sections of vocabulary from *Mitchel*, one quiz per section. We will memorize approximately 427 words. The first two quizzes will include 25 words, whereas the third quiz will include 50 words.

In addition to vocabulary quizzes, you will also be quizzed on certain grammatical forms throughout the course. For example, there will be quiz on the strong root for the seven binyanim/stems in the perfect & imperfect paradigms (cf. *Bornemann*, pp. 276-77). A few additional quizzes will be announced later in the course.

Scheduled quizzes will be taken the first 10-15 minutes of class, unless otherwise noted by the instructor. Cf. the Course Schedule below for dates of quizzes. You are allowed to retake each vocabulary quiz twice by scheduling a time with the instructor.

Your combined points will be totaled and averaged to form 20% of your total grade for the course.

*Put your name and SPO # on the back of the last sheet of everything you hand in (e.g. assignment, quiz, exam)!*

### **Further Study in the Hebrew Language**

1. This course should prepare a student and is therefore a prerequisite for any Hebrew exegesis course and other Semitic language courses (e.g. Biblical Aramaic, Akkadian, Ugaritic, Arabic, NW Semitic).

2. Students will be challenged and encouraged to read daily from the Hebrew Scriptures, and participate in weekly Hebrew reading groups that meet on campus (during fall and spring terms only).

3. Asbury Seminary now has a chapter of Eta Beta Rho (HBP or  $\epsilon\beta$  [ ]), a national Hebrew honor society. Students who earn a grade of 3.0 or higher after taking OT 501 and OT 502 with intent to complete a exegesis class or an OT 700 class are eligible for membership into the society.

### **Course Procedure & Schedule**

Our class sessions will be a combination of presenting new material and reviewing the assignments.

Each module will be more fully explained when assigned by the instructor. For some modules, other reading & hands-on assignments will be added at the time you receive the module. The resources which contain readings (Waltke-O'Connor, *An Introduction to Biblical Hebrew Syntax*; Scott, *A Simplified Guide to BHS*; and Seow, *A Grammar for Biblical Hebrew*) are on the reserve shelf in the library.

You will note that I have not put the actual dates of the modules, except for the first one. Because the pace of every class varies, I will assign the modules as we move throughout the course.

**Module 1: Grammar Review & Translation**

August 3, 1999

1. A brief self-profile is due August 4
2. Reading Assignments: *Bornemann*, pp. 107-13; *Waltke-O'Connor*, pp. 343-61
3. Hands-on Assignments: *Bornemann*, #1 (1 Kings 17.1-7) pp. 114-15; copy *Seow*, pp. 344-45 for comparison

**Module 2: Grammar Review & Translation**

August, 1999

1. Reading Assignments: TBA
2. Hands-on Assignments: *Bornemann*, #2 (1 Kings 17.8-16); copy *Seow*, pp. 350-53 for comparison
3. Morphology Quiz: Qal, Piel, Hiphil perfects and imperfects – August 5
4. Vocabulary Quiz: Section #1 of *Mitchel* – August 6

**Module 3: Grammar Review & Translation**

August, 1999

1. Reading Assignments: TBA
2. Hands-on Assignments: *Bornemann*, #3 (1 Kings 17.17-24); copy *Seow*, pp. 348-49 for comparison

**Module 4: New Grammar & Translation**

August, 1999

1. Reading Assignments: TBA
2. Hands-on Assignments: *Bornemann*, #4 (1 Kings 18.1-6); copy *Seow*, pp. 346-47 for comparison
3. Vocabulary Quiz: Section #2 of *Mitchel* – August 10

**Module 5: New Grammar & Translation**

August, 1999

1. Reading Assignments: TBA
2. Hands-on Assignments: *Bornemann*, #5 (1 Kings 18.7-18); copy *Seow*, pp. 336-37 for comparison

**Module 6: New Grammar & Translation**

August, 1999

1. Reading Assignments: TBA
2. Hands-on Assignments: *Bornemann*, #6 (1 Kings 18.19-24); copy *Seow*, pp. 338-41 for comparison



**Module 7: New Grammar & Translation**

August, 1999

1. Reading Assignments: TBA
2. Hands-on Assignments: *Bornemann*, #7 (1 Kings 18.25-29); copy *Seow*, pp. 342-43 for comparison (Seow doesn't have a א-פ chart)
3. Exam #1 – August 13

**Module 8: New Grammar & Translation**

August, 1999

1. Reading Assignments: TBA
2. Hands-on Assignments: *Bornemann*, #8 (1 Kings 18.30-40); review the strong verb chart, all aspects
3. Vocabulary Quiz: Section #3 of *Mitchel* – August 17

**Module 9: New Grammar & Translation**

August, 1999

1. Reading Assignments: TBA
2. Hands-on Assignments: *Bornemann*, #9 (1 Kings 18.41-46); review *Seow*, pp. 344-45 & 350-51 for comparison

**Module 10: New Grammar & Translation**

August, 1999

1. Reading Assignments: TBA
2. Hands-on Assignments: *Bornemann*, #10 (1 Kings 19.1-8); review *Seow*, pp. 346-51 for comparison

**Module 11: New Grammar & Translation**

August, 1999

1. Reading Assignments: TBA
2. Hands-on Assignments: *Bornemann*, #11 (1 Kings 19.9-18); review the strong verb chart, all aspects

**Module 12: Reading and Translating the Hebrew Text**

August, 1999

1. Reading Assignments: TBA
2. Hands-on Assignments: *Bornemann*, #12 (1 Kings 19.19-21); review the strong verb chart, all aspects

**Module 13: Reading and Translating the Hebrew Text**

August, 1999

1. Reading Assignments: TBA
2. Hands-on Assignments: TBA
3. Exam #2

### **Select Bibliography**

#### ***Elementary Biblical Hebrew Grammars***

1. Kelley, Page H. Biblical Hebrew: An Introductory Grammar. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1992.
2. Kittel, Bonnie. Biblical Hebrew: A Text and Workbook. New Haven: Yale, 1989.
3. Lambdin, Thomas O. Introduction to Biblical Hebrew. New York: Scribner, 1971.
4. Seow, C. L. A Grammar for Biblical Hebrew. rev. ed. Nashville: Abingdon, 1995.

#### ***Advanced Biblical Hebrew Grammars***

1. Gesenius, Wilhelm. Gesenius' Hebrew Grammar. Edited by E. Kautzsche. Oxford: Clarendon, 1910; reprint 1970.
2. Gibson, J. C. L. Davidson's Introductory Hebrew Grammar – Syntax. 4th ed. Edinburgh: T & T Clark, 1994.
3. Joüon, Paul. A Grammar of Biblical Hebrew. Translated and edited by T. Muroaka. 2 Vols. Subsidia Biblica. Vols 14/I-14-II. Rome: Pontifical Biblical Institute, 1991.
4. Waltke, Bruce, and Michael O'Connor. An Introduction to Biblical Hebrew Syntax. Winona Lake, IN: Eisenbrauns, 1990.
5. Williams, Ronald J. Hebrew Syntax: An Outline. Toronto: University of Toronto, 1976.

#### ***Hebrew Lexicons***

1. Brown, Francis, S. R. Driver, and Charles A. Briggs, eds. A Hebrew and English Lexicon of the Old Testament. Oxford: Oxford, 1907; reprint, Peabody, MA: Hendrickson, 1979.
2. Clines, David J. A., ed. The Dictionary of Classical Hebrew. 3 Vols. Sheffield: Sheffield Academic, 1993-. (3 vols. to date – more coming!)
3. Holladay, William. A Concise Hebrew and Aramaic Lexicon of the Old Testament. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1971.
4. Koehler, Ludwig, Walter Baumgartner, eds. The Hebrew and Aramaic Lexicon of the Old Testament. 4 Vols. Leiden: Brill, 1994-. (3 vols. published in English thus far.)

#### ***Hebrew Lexical Helps***

1. Armstrong, Terry, Douglas Busby, and Cyril F. Carr. A Reader's Hebrew-English Lexicon of the Old Testament: Four Volumes in One. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1989.
2. Beall, Todd, William Banks, and Colin Smith. Old Testament Parsing Guide. 2 Vols. Chicago: Moody, 1990. (Out of print)
3. Einspahr, Bruce. Index to Brown, Driver, & Briggs Hebrew Lexicon. Chicago: Moody, 1977.

***Hebrew Analytical Lexicons***

1. Accordance 3.0. Oaktree, Altamonte Springs, FL. (Macintosh based)
2. BibleWorks 4.0. Hermenueitika, Big Fork, MT. (Windows based)
3. Davidson, Benjamin. The Analytical Hebrew and Chaldee Lexicon. Peabody, MA: Hendrickson, 1992.
4. Owens, John Joseph. Analytical Key to the Old Testament. 4 Vols. Grand Rapids: Baker, 1989-1992.

***Hebrew Interlinears***

- Kohlenberger, John III. The Interlinear NIV Hebrew-English Old Testament. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1987. (One volume)

***Hebrew Word Study Tools***

1. Botterweck, Johannes, and Helmer Ringgren, eds. Theological Dictionary of the Old Testament. 9 Vols. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1974-1998. (9 vols. to date – more coming!)
2. Harris, R. Laird, Gleason Archer, and Bruce Waltke, eds. Theological Wordbook of the Old Testament. 2 Vols. Chicago: Moody, 1981.
3. Jenni, Ernst, and Claus Westermann, eds. Theological Lexicon of the Old Testament. 3 Vols. Peabody, MA: Hendrickson, 1997.
4. VanGemeren, Willem, ed. The New International Dictionary of Old Testament Theology and Exegesis. 5 Vols. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1996.

***Hebrew Concordances***

1. Accordance 3.0. Oaktree, Altamonte Springs, FL. (Macintosh based)
2. BibleWorks 4.0. Hermenueitika, Big Fork, MT. (Windows based)
3. Even-Shoshan, Abraham. A New Concordance of the Old Testament. 2nd ed. Grand Rapids: Baker, 1993.
4. Lisowsky, Gerhard. Konkordanz zum Hebraischen Alten Testament. 2nd ed. Stuttgart: Wurttembergische Bibelanstalt, 1958.
5. Mandelkern, Solomon. Veteris Testamenti Concordantiae: Hebraica atque Chaldaicae. Tel Aviv: Sumptibus Schocken Hierosolymis, 1971.
6. Wigram, George. The New Englishman's Hebrew Concordance. Revised ed. Peabody, MA: Hendrickson, 1984.

***Hebrew Vocabulary Aids***

1. Hebrew Tutor. Parsons Technology, Hiawatha, IA.
2. Landes, George M. A Student's Vocabulary of Biblical Hebrew. New York: Scribner, 1961.
3. Mitchel, Larry A. A Student's Vocabulary for Biblical Hebrew and Aramaic. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1984.
4. Watts, John D. W. Lists of Words Occurring Frequently in the Hebrew Bible. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1987. (Out of print)